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382 387 reliable foreign chemical firm can be secured to design and construct it and, at least at the outset, operate it under a management contract.

The plant would give permanent employment to about 1,000 workers.

387 297 ***Bone Meal Plants***

Another promising field for new industry is the conversion of the waste products from abattoirs to fertilizers for domestic use. Bone meal, for example, is a very valuable fertilizer. Yet at present Iraq, with no domestic plant to utilize them, is exporting approximately 15,000 tons of bones per year to Europe.

There would probably be sufficient demand for fertilizer to support three plants, located at Basra, Baghdad, and Mosul. Their combined cost would probably amount to roughly ID 50,000, of which ID 45,000 would be in foreign exchange, principally pounds sterling. With help from the Industrial Bank, this could probably be financed by the abattoir owners. When completed the plants would give employment to about 60 workers.

Steel

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Iraq is now producing about 5,000 tons of steel scrap per year. It is recommended that a small hand-operated mill and electric melting furnace be set up to convert this scrap into reinforcing bars, window shapes and small angles, all of which are in great demand. This mill ought to be located in Baghdad and arrangements made to obtain off-peak power from the Baghdad power plant or from the railroad shops. As an alternative to electric melting, crucibles might be considered. In either case, the cost of the plant would be approximately ID 300,000, including ID 200,000 in foreign exchange, mostly in hard currency. This mill could not satisfy the whole of Iraq's steel needs; nevertheless, it would furnish about 5,000 tons per year of certain types at probably half the cost of the imported steel it would replace.

The mill could be financed by private capital with help from the Industrial Bank. Foreign technicians would be required dur-

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ing the first years of operation. Such a mill would give permanent employment to approximately 50 workers.

Concrete Batching Plant

Iraq will probably undertake in the near future a considerable number of construction projects for which poured concrete would appear to be the best material. It would therefore be desirable to locate in Baghdad a batching plant with ready-mix trucks to furnish the concrete. Standard steel forms would also be needed. A batching plant capable of producing cement for approximately 5,000 houses per year would cost about ID 125,000 in foreign exchange, mostly U. S. dollars. It could be financed by private capital with the assistance of the Industrial Bank.

Glass Works

During the war, two plants at Mosul remelted broken glass to make glass tumblers, etc. These plants are now closed as they are no longer competitive with imported glass.

It has been stated that suitable sand for glass manufacture has been located near Mosul. If the Department of Industries verifies the adequacy and suitability of this sand, then a new glass factory might well be constructed to make bottles, white containers and tumblers for domestic consumption. No attempt, however, should be made to manufacture flat glass. No recommendation is made in regard to the construction of such a plant, however, until adequate sources of material are proven.

Date Packing Crates

The cost of wooden boxes for the shipping of dates has steadily increased and represents a considerable cost to the date industry. At present, the practice is to import the boxes in pieces for assembly in Iraq. It is recommended that a small box plant be constructed at Basra to make these boxes from imported timber. This factory would require only a few power-driven wood-working tools estimated to cost ID 10,000, primarily in pounds sterling, and should reduce the cost of date boxes by at least 50 percent. The plant could be financed by private capital and sponsored by the Date Association. It would employ about 30 full-time workers.